

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A coating apparatus for disk-shaped workpieces, comprising:
a transport chamber (3); and

a workpiece transport configuration (11) which comprises;

at least two linearly extendable and retractable transport rams (15) driven under control and connected with a rotational axis (A) driven under control, which are within shell lines of a rotation body about the rotational axis (A) and which can be extended and retracted in the same direction with respect to a direction on the rotational axis; and

a workpiece receiver (17) at the ends on each ram (15);

at least two operating openings (19_B, 19_S) by which the transport chamber (3) communicates with stations (21, 23), of which one is a coating station, wherein the surface normals (N) of the operating openings are directed in the direction of shell lines of the rotation body;

a pump unit (34), communicating via a pump opening (30) with the transport chamber (3), for the transport chamber (3) as well as also for the coating station (21); and

wherein at least one of the rams (15) comprises at its end a closure configuration (17) or can be equipped therewith, is orientable toward the pump opening and the closure configuration, and, with orientation of the ram (15) onto the pump opening (30) and subsequently its extension (F), enters into an operational connection forming a sealed closure.

Claim 2 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rotation body is a cylinder or a cone and the rams under linear driving can be extended and retracted parallel or obliquely to the rotational axis.

Claim 3 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the rotation body is a cone with a 90° aperture angle, the rams project radially from the rotational axis (A) and the operating openings and the pump opening with their opening surface normals (N) are located in the rotational plane of the rams about the rotational axis.

Claim 4 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein two of the rams (15) are provided which are disposed offset by 180° with respect to the rotational axis (A), wherein also only two of the stations (21, 23) are provided, of which the one is a lock station (23) and the two operating openings (19_B , 19_S) oppose one another with respect to the rotational axis (A).

Claim 5 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the pump opening (30) is disposed in a plane (E) and, with respect to the rotational axis (A) and the operating openings (19_B , 19_S), is disposed offset by 90° between the latter, wherein further, opposing the pump opening (3) with respect to the rotational axis (A), a supplemental opening (32) is disposed in the wall of the transport chamber (3).

Claim 6 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the workpiece coating station (21) and the transport chamber (3) are connected via a communication connection (25) not under control.

Claim 7 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating station (21) is a sputter station.

Claim 8 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the workpiece receiver is formed by a workpiece receiving plate (17) for at least one disk-shaped workpiece (27) and this plate (17) forms the closure member.

Claim 9 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure configuration (17) is provided on all rams (15) and is developed as a workpiece carrier plate.

Claim 10 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the closure configuration (17) with orientation of the particular ram (15) onto one of the operating openings (19) and its extending out (F) enters into an operational connection with the particular opening (19) forming a closure.

Claim 11 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure configuration (17) is formed by a workpiece (27) placed onto the ram (15).

Claim 12 (original): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, with means for fabrication of magnetic or optic storage disks.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A coating apparatus as claimed in claim 12 with means for the fabrication of CDs of all types.